

Serial No.: 09/475,881
Attorney Docket No.: E-915

Patent

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were pending in the Application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments to the specification and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 will remain pending in the application.

In section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,995,950 to Barns-Slavin, et al. ("Barns-Slavin '950"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants submit that the invention as presently claimed is patentable over the cited reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not provided a prima facie case of anticipation that teaches each element of Claim 1. For example, Claim 1 recites a stop table, for storing attributes associated with a stop, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a stop identifier field, and a drop bill number field. Accordingly, Claim 1 is therefore patentable for at least that reason. Claim 5 also includes such a recitation and Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 5 is also patentable for at least that reason.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 or 5, respectively are therefore patentable over the cited reference for the reasons stated above with reference to Claims 1 and 5.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-8 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejections to the claims.

Serial No.: 09/475,881
Attorney Docket No.: E-915

Patent

CONCLUSION OF REMARKS

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

Serial No.: 09/475,881
Attorney Docket No.: E-915

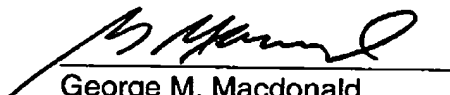
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AUTHORIZATION

No fee, other than the fee for the enclosed petition for extension of time, is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. E-915.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. E-915.

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No.: 09/475,881
Attorney Docket No.: E-915

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APPENDIX A
Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the specification:

On page 1, under the heading "Cross Reference to Related Applications", the paragraph is replaced according to the following marked-up version.

The present invention is related to the following U.S. applications:

U.S. application, Serial No. [] 09/475,880 filed December 30, 1999 [] entitled, "A PLANNING ENGINE FOR A PARCEL SHIPPING SYSTEM" having attorney docket number (E-911);

U.S. application, Serial No. [] 09/476,717 filed December 30, 1999 [] entitled, "A SYSTEM FOR MANAGING PARCEL SHIPPING" having attorney docket number (E-912);

U.S. application, Serial No. [] 09/475,883 filed December 30, 1999 [] entitled, "A RATER UTILITY FOR A PARCEL SHIPPING SYSTEM" having attorney docket number (E-913); and

U.S. application, Serial No. [] 09/475,882 filed December 30, 1999 [] entitled, "A ROUTER UTILITY FOR A PARCEL SHIPPING SYSTEM" having attorney docket number (E-914). All of the applications are assigned to the present assignee and filed on the same date hereof. The subject matter of each of these applications is hereby incorporated by reference.